

NATIONAL DAY ARTICLE

(Japan News)

It is a privilege to share the 102nd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye with the readers of the Japan News.

First of all, I extend our deepest gratitude to Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, along with his brave comrades and the founding generations of our nation.

Democracy, rule of law, human rights and global prosperity continue to be cornerstones of our Republic. Our nation remains steadfast in its dedication to peace and stability, both in our region and beyond. In a world confronted by ongoing conflicts, the importance of cooperation and solidarity in fostering global peace has never been clearer.

Having one the largest diplomatic representation around the globe, Türkiye is strongly committed to engage with the international community on all the issues affecting the humanity.

With this in mind, we support the principle of indivisibility of security, namely between Europe and Eastern Asia.

In this regard, we place utmost importance on our relations with Japan, a friendly country that we enjoy a long history.

Although our diplomatic relations have started in 1924, our friendship goes back even further. After delivering the official gifts of the Ottoman Palace, the Ertuğrul Frigate sank off the shores of Kushimoto in 1890 on her way back home. This tragic event, which fostered deep friendship bonds between the Turkish and the Japanese people, symbolizes the beginning of our long history of solidarity.

The friendship between our people have continuously developed since then. The evacuation in 1985 of the Japanese people from Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war by the Turkish Airlines and the mutual solidarity displayed after major earthquakes are still vivid in the memories of both nations.

As a clear reflection of the importance we attach to our cooperation with Japan, we upgraded our relations to the level of “Strategic Partnership” in 2013. Subsequently, we have witnessed considerable progress in every field, including economy, energy, culture, tourism, science, education and disaster management.

The centenary of our diplomatic relations last year has given a new impetus to our already progressing cooperation. On that occasion, we have organized numerous cultural events; hosted Their Highnesses Crown Prince and Princess Akishino; and the Turkish and Japanese military vessels have mutually paid port visits.

Early this year, H.E. Numan Kurtulmuş, the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and H.E. Ömer Bolat, Minister of Trade, visited Japan.

We had the honor to host H.E. Nakatani, Minister of Defense, in August, the first ever visit to our country from Japan at this capacity.

Most recently, Her Highness Princess Akiko paid an official visit to Türkiye in September, on the occasion of the 135th anniversary of the Ertuğrul Frigate incident.

Japan is our third trade partner in the Eastern Asia and we aim to further increase our commercial ties. The signing of the “Economic Partnership Agreement” and the “Social Security Agreement” will be particularly important, upgrading our relations in this sphere to a new level.

The joint business council meetings continue to be convened annually. This month, we hosted the 28th meeting in Türkiye.

Tourism is another field that has potential to be further explored. We are encouraged to see that social contacts between our people have surpassed the pre-pandemic levels. Last year, we welcomed 134,000 Japanese tourists in our country and 64,000 tourists from our country visited Japan.

In order to further increase tourism numbers, we strongly encourage the commercial flights between our countries. At the moment, Turkish Airlines has 21 weekly frequencies from Tokyo and Osaka, while All Nippon Airways (ANA) has three weekly frequencies between Tokyo and Istanbul.

Osaka Expo 2025 provided an excellent opportunity to share our cultural heritage, reinforcing our commitment to cultural exchange. I once again wholeheartedly celebrate the Japanese authorities for the successful organization of the event.

Before concluding, I extend our warmest wishes to the friendly people of Japan and look forward to a joint future where the genuine friendship continues to flourish, connecting continents and cultures in the spirit of harmony and cooperation.

Oğuzhan Ertuğrul

Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye